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SENATOR HUDKINS: July 1, 2003, is when the committee amendment changes the implementation date to.

SENATOR JANSSEN: So then probably the first payment would be...coming out would be probably in 2004.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR JANSSEN: It would be budgeted in 2003 and come out in 2004. Is that correct?

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: I'm not quite sure what the billing cycles are. If the state is billed monthly then obviously the payments would be made the month following the billing. And if they have to wait until several months or quarters, I just don't understand how the billing process works at this point.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Hudkins. And I'm not sure whether I going to be voting for the bill or not. It probably wouldn't be the right decision to support this at the present time. But I just want you to all know that these people are being taken care of and somebody is paying that price. Right now it's being paid by the property owners in your district. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Kristensen, members of the Legislature, I kind of feel halfhearted but right on this issue (laugh), you know? I don't contest anything Senator Hudkins has said. She is pointing definitely in the right direction. I do not contend that people resent more paying property taxes than they do sales and income tax. But, on balance, I would still have to argue that this is absolutely the wrong time to be doing this, and I think a note should be added, an important note. In normal times I would say, yes, Senator Hudkins, tell HHS to do this directly, provide the money directly, let's not "futsy" around with this with any sort of indirect kinds of things. But I don't think we can do that right now for fiscal reasons, and I wanted to simply relate to you some things that DHH is doing and that Senator Jensen and the Health Committee have provided out